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SIU’s credit score dips

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

After a review period, an investor relations company has moved the university’s credit status slightly.

Moody’s Investor Services released a report March 18 that dropped the university’s credit rating from an A2 stable rating to A2 negative because of Illinois’ weak financial condition. The service’s credit scores are based on a system that uses A, B, and C ratings with several subset levels for each letter. The university’s A2 rating is an upper-middle grade, which reflects high ability to repay short-term debt and shows low credit risk, according to the report.

University officials said the state, which saw a downgraded credit rating in December, is the university’s primary source of financial woes because the university is semi-reliant on state appropriations.

University President Glenn Poshard said even though the rating has dropped, it has held an A2 credit rating since at least 2002.

While the university’s rating moved down a spot, so have other state universities. The University of Illinois, Western Illinois University and Illinois State University dropped from A2 stable grades to A2 negative. Northern Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University dropped from A2 ratings down to A3 ratings.

Please see CREDIT | 3

Art from the inside



NICOLE HESTER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Ashley Atterberry, a senior from Peoria studying ceramics, spray paints her artwork in preparation for the Rickert-Ziebold competition where she will present a 3D comic, “An Innard Journey,” which deals with discovery and an investigation of self. The competition is judged by art and design faculty, and the exhibition will be open to the public at the Surplus Gallery April 22 to 27. The award will be presented at the 6:30 p.m. reception April 26.

County receives FEMA funds after 2011 flood

MATT DARAY
Daily Egyptian

Alexander County residents will soon begin to rebuild their community.

Nearly two years after heavy spring rains caused the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to flood several towns such as Olive Branch and Tamms, Gov. Pat Quinn announced \$8.7 million in federal funding March 18, to acquire and demolish 167 flood-prone county homes and businesses according to a governor’s office press release. The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the funding, and the state will provide the county nearly \$3 million in capital funds to purchase the flood victims’ land and pay them to acquire new property.

The project will be one of the largest flood-related acquisitions ever in the state’s history, according to the press release.

“The historic floods of 2011 turned many lives upside-down,” Quinn said in the release. “These investments will help many families start anew as they continue to rebuild their lives.”

Beth Ellison, a geology professor, said she and other volunteers have worked closely with Alexander County residents since the project’s start.

“From day one, we knew the recovery process needed to start with the community deciding that they wanted to pursue FEMA funding for buyouts and home elevations,” she said. “From there, the community would decide which way the rebuilding

“These investments will help many families start anew as they continue to rebuild their lives.

— Pat Quinn
Illinois governor

process would take.”

Ellison said the project’s manager will hire an assessor to begin the real estate transaction process once a contract between the county and Illinois Emergency Management Agency is signed. Homeowners will be consulted through the process until they agree on an offer. Once the county owns the land, any structure on it must be demolished and no other taxable structure may be built on that parcel of land by agreement under the FEMA grant, she said. The county will then have to maintain the property as open space, she said.

The buyout project is slated to finish in early 2015, but the assessment and purchasing portion will hopefully be near completion by the end of 2013, Ellison said. The approved FEMA grant covers only the buyout and not the ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts, she said.

Please see FEMA | 3

Unpaid internships can pay off

MITCH SCHAFER
Daily Egyptian

Although some students might accept unpaid summer work for school credit, university officials and students say such work could provide benefits money can’t buy.

A March 18 USA Today College opinion article said even though unpaid internships may provide sufficient experience for low-income students, they often cannot support themselves while completing one. Despite the negatives, several university staff members and students said unpaid internships can be valuable.

Matt Purdy, associate director of placement and services, said the disconnect between paid and unpaid internships often lies within the internship’s value. He said more desirable internships, such as sports and entertainment positions, tend to be unpaid. However, he said the university uses measures such as recruiter events and career fairs to obtain paid internships for students.

While the more desirable internships may be unpaid, Keri Burns, director of career services, does not agree there is an experience difference between paid and unpaid internships.

“The experience has the potential to be the same,” Burns said. “It’s just what the student makes of it.”

Burns said students must search early to obtain their desired internship. Students often wait until the spring semester or a month before summer begins to start searching for one, she said. This means the student is picking what’s left, she said, rather than choosing an internship that tailors students’ needs.

Even if a paid internship falls through, Burns said students can obtain alternative paid jobs. The Illinois Work Study Grant, which Burns said allows

the university to reimburse local employers half the wages they would pay an intern, helps a student get hired and gives a company the opportunity to pay someone it might not have a full budget for.

Although paid internships can make the cost of living easier on students, unpaid internships can be more valuable, said Van Burnett, a graduate student in business administration from Peoria.

Burnett said he has worked an unpaid internship at a Peoria Caterpillar marketing agency as well as a paid internship as a Boy Scouts of America sales coordinator. Despite his heavier responsibilities with the Boy Scouts, he said his unpaid internship was more valuable than the one he got paid for.

“It was a little bit tougher rolling out of bed to go to an unpaid internship, and the end of the week didn’t feel as nice when you got done,” he said. “But on the resume, I still put that one above my paid one.”

At his unpaid Caterpillar internship, Burnett started out performing odd jobs such as running errands and picking up print media, but toward the internship’s end he began attending high-level meetings with Manhattan Caterpillar representatives, he said.

Although Burnett said his unpaid internship was more valuable, Burns said cost of living can be an issue. She said some people depend on borrowing loans just as they would during the school year, while others have to find a part-time job to go with their part-time internship, she said.

Evan Noffke, a senior from Strasburg majoring in elementary education, said it would be difficult for students to work a part-time job alongside the internship.

“It seems like students would be stretching themselves so much to the point where they probably wouldn’t be getting the full benefit of the internship,” he said.

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Correction

In Tuesday’s edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the story “Panthers’ ace pitcher dominates Saluki offense” should have said the SIU softball team dropped two one-run games against Northern Iowa during a Saturday doubleheader that brought the team’s conference record to 0-4. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets the error.

About Us

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Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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FEMA

CONTINUED FROM 1

With funds now available, a county official said he is optimistic about reconstruction.

Chalen Tatum, Alexander county commissioner, said he's thrilled the county has finally received funding.

"It's good for the people that's been having to fight the river for several years," he said. "Every ten years, it seems like they're having to fight the waters back."

Tatum said he isn't surprised it took FEMA and the state so long to provide the county money because the application to repair the town was extensive. The funding was delayed last year because of Hurricane Sandy hitting the Eastern United States, he said.

Although the flood brought high waters and

damage costs, Tatum said the aftermath has led to some positives. The funds give citizens the means to leave the flood plains and avoid future damage.

However, Alexander County residents' opinions vary on how much FEMA has actually helped the community.

Tony Walder, an Olive Branch resident, said he was amazed the funds were approved — he thought the money would never come because the state and government are broke.

Walder said he thinks the funding took too long to become available for the county, which is partly why he does not trust either of them.

"They helped a few people out in the very beginning, and if they hadn't have done that there wouldn't have been no help," he said. "I didn't get nothing from them."

Locals helped each other rebuild their

communities after the flood, Walder said, and he is skeptical about how much money will actually go toward rebuilding the county.

Tina Bracken, a Tamms resident, said she thinks the state and FEMA need to provide the county quicker assistance.

"I think they should speed things up," she said. "Recovery is a long process, and we are in need of the money soon."

Bracken said she understands there is a lot of red tape that prevents immediate financial assistance to the county but thinks a portion of the money should have been sent for immediate aid. FEMA is a great department, but their policies cause them to react at a slow pace, she said.

The money approval has also relieved those who have worked to help rebuild.

Ellison said she is thrilled the project is now

funded and can begin.

"I feel relieved," she said. "For so long I kept telling community members that the funds are coming, and I (began) to sound like a broken record. The best part now is the calls of "thank you" from so many people who are ready to finally move on since the flood."

Ellison said members of several different departments including anthropology, mass communications, biology, zoology, political science, health care and marketing have assisted the project and will continue to do so.

Students who wish to participate in reconstruction efforts can contact Ellison at beth.ellison@siu.edu

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mdanay@dailyegyptian.com
or 536-3311 ext. 254*

CREDIT

CONTINUED FROM 1

Despite the drop, Poshard said the university is in better shape than Illinois' own credit rating. He said the university has done its best to improve its credit rating whenever possible and made some sacrifices to do so. Such sacrifices, he said, include leaving previously occupied positions unfilled as well as cutting travel and equipment budgets.

"We did a lot of good things about our management here to maintain that rating, but there's nothing we can do about the state having been downgraded

in December," he said.

Chancellor Rita Cheng said Illinois universities aren't the only facing harder financial times.

"Higher (Education) in the whole country was deemed to be a negative outlook," she said. "That's because of the decline in state appropriations and the uncertainty of federal funding support, whether it's grants for students or research support or other types of support."

According to Moody's report, the negative outlook reflects the university's high reliance on state appropriations in an uncertain state funding environment as well as enrollment declines. The

information showed state credit improvements such as stable and timely appropriation payments could improve the university's rating.

However, the findings also showed the university's score could decline because of factors such as longer payment delays, whether the state delegates more pension payment responsibility and further enrollment declines.

The state downgrade is not the only issue the university has had to deal with regarding budget management.

Poshard said the university recieved \$248 million in state appropriations

in 2002, but it is expected to receive \$204 million this year and is still owed about \$150 million. Along with fewer state appropriations, Poshard said the university has to accommodate for Gov. Pat Quinn's state budget plan, which will cause another 5 percent in education cuts; pension funding, which will cost around \$6-10 million from the university's budget; and sequestration on the federal level, which will cause the university to receive cuts in multiple areas such as research grants and military programs.

"If you take all of those things combined, the university is facing the

most critical financial state that we will have ever faced," he said.

Cheng said the university must show financial organizations it can handle its financial situation.

"What will be important is to demonstrate to Moody's and Standards and Poors that we have the capacity to change what we need to change, to move forward in innovative and exciting ways to meet the educational needs of the students today," she said.

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Fresh foods in season



TIFFANY BLANCHETTE | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Ida Imelda, of Carbondale, removes damaged grapes from each bunch Wednesday at Fresh Foods in the Murdale Shopping Center. Imelda said many types of lettuce and greens as well as strawberries will arrive as they approach their peak season after the first day of spring. “We have to keep the fruit and vegetables fresh everyday,” she said.

Illinois trooper helps raise car off student

RANTOUL — An Illinois state trooper helped lift a car off of a University of Illinois student on Interstate 57 during Monday’s heavy snow. State Trooper Brian Scott was helping motorists whose vehicles were stopped north of Rantoul

because of snow. He said he saw the car skid into 21-year-old Ethan Asofsky and come to rest on him. The News-Gazette in Champaign reports that Scott is a 300-pound former lineman who played for the University of Illinois football team in the late 1990s. After failing to lift the

car on his own he enlisted the help of two other people and finally raised the car high enough for Asofsky’s friend to pull him free. Asofsky was listed in fair condition Tuesday at a Champaign hospital.

— Associated Press



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Danks, Septimo on disabled list

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Left-hander John Danks has been put on the 15-day disabled list by the Chicago White Sox as he recovers from surgery last August.

Danks was 3-4 with a 5.70 ERA in

nine starts, all before mid-May, and had surgery Aug. 6 to repair a capsule tear and remove debris in his rotator cuff and biceps. He has allowed 20 earned runs and 27 hits in 11 innings over four spring training starts.

Danks is entering the second season of a \$60 million, five-year contract.

The DL move was retroactive to Friday.

Left-hander Leyson Septimo also was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday. Septimo has a strained left shoulder and hasn't pitched since March 7.

Chicago reassigned left-hander David Purcey to its minor league camp.

DANCE

CONTINUED FROM 8

Shakers coach Tawmi Conley said the dance competition, which is in its eighth year, is growing in size and popularity.

“For the last few years we’ve seen more and more people come out and support the program and the competition,” she said. “The young girls who danced today love to dance and I hope they learn that it’s OK to keep dancing.”

The judging panel consisted of both past and present Shakers and handed out special awards such as the ‘cutest’ and ‘I know I will see your name again’ awards.

St. Louis Rams cheerleader Chelsea LaBrie, a former Shaker, said judging the competition allowed her to reminisce on her time as a young dancer.

“This competition was pretty fierce,” she said. “I’m also impressed with the girls. Not everyone was the greatest dancer out there, but I liked seeing how much fun they were having.”

In her third year with the Rams, LaBrie said young girls who are passionate about dancing should maintain their dedication.

“If you want to dance, you should stick with it,” she said. “Take a lot of technique classes, and remember to be yourself.”

During her time as a Shaker, LaBrie said she learned numerous skills that prepared her for success.

“If you want to dance, you should stick with it. Take a lot of technique classes, and remember to be yourself.

— Chelsea LaBrie
St. Louis Rams cheerleader

“Being a Saluki Shaker was a great bonding experience and helped groom me as a performer,” she said. “I’ve made lifelong friends as a Shaker, and it was a great way to get involved in school.”

The annual dance competition is one fund raising avenue the Shakers use to prepare for the Universal Dance Association national competition — an event team members train tirelessly for.

Conley said the women may not be seen as the typical athlete, but they are as committed as any other student athlete.

“Most people will never notice, but my young ladies are always working and going full force all year long,” she said. “They have practices over breaks, they do plenty of community service along with their responsibilities as students.

Senior Megan Campbell, the Shakers’ captain, said a member’s typical week may mirror some of the more rigorous athletic schedules.

“We’re all full-time students, and almost all of us have jobs,” she said. “We practice 20 hours a week, five days

a week, and we try to maintain our 3.0 GPAs.”

Campbell said her time with the team has been invaluable in her personal and dancing development.

“Being on the team has taught me excellent communications skills,” she said. I have to communicate with my teammates, alumni and faculty. Now it’s easy for me to talk to people.”

The Shakers are holding spring tryouts April 12-13, and applications are available for download on the team’s website.

Conley said the national competition is increasing the number of performers on each team, and she would like to expand the Shaker’s membership.

“We are losing five seniors, so we would really like to replenish the team,” she said. “We currently have girls from the Chicago, St. Louis and southern Illinois area, so we are a pretty diverse group,” Conley said.

She said interested dancers should contact her at situdance@siu.edu

LOWERY

CONTINUED FROM 8

Lowery echoed the same comments in a March 18 article by the Evansville Courier and Press.

“SIU is my alma mater,” Lowery said. “There is never going to be any bad blood. They gave me the opportunity to be a player and a coach.”

Nevertheless, the two-time Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year has filed a lawsuit against SIU, seeking between \$1.5 and \$5 million and argues breach of contract. He seeks attorney fees, arbitration and punitive damage.

Lowery is owed more than \$1.5 million for the final two years of his contract.

“I’ll let the higher-ups handle it,” Lowery said in an interview with the Evansville Courier and Press. “I have never publicly commented about what happened at SIU, and I’m not going to do it at this time.”

“SIU is my alma mater. There is never going to be any bad blood. They gave me the opportunity to be a player and a coach.

— Chris Lowery
Former men’s basketball coach

Upon Lowery’s firing, Moccia said Lowery was fired “with cause,” and negotiation from both parties would take place soon.

Deborah Nelson, SIU’s Associate General Counsel, did not return messages seeking comment.

Lowery’s attorney, Daniel Bell of Jackson Lewis LLP in Cleveland also did not return any messages.

Moccia said one factor that led to the firing of Lowery was player retention.

“Player retention has been a problem for us and clearly contributed to the decline in our

on-court performance,” Moccia said. “We reached a point where I felt it was in everyone’s best interest to make a change.”

More than a dozen players transferred from SIU between 2007-2012 and left Kendal Brown-Surles as the only fourth-year senior on the court this season.

Two players were academically ineligible during Lowery’s last season as coach, and the men’s basketball team held a 908 Academic Progress Rate score in 2010-2011, which is eight points from citing NCAA disciplinary action.

BASEBALL

CONTINUED FROM 8

Evan Shaffer, a senior from Maroa studying graphic design, said the players’ contracts should be at stake when they are punished.

“I think players who have been caught cheating or using steroids need to be punished more severely than just getting game suspensions,” he said. “Their contracts need to be affected, whether it’s how much money they’re making that season or for how many years they’re on a contract.”

The 2013 MLB season starts Sunday, when the Houston Astros host the Rangers in the Astros’ first American League game. The rest of the opening games begin April 1.

With so many teams hopeful to reach the this season’s playoffs, it will be a tight race. Teams have bulked up on offense, and I wouldn’t be surprised to see another batter win this year’s triple crown.

For the playoffs; Toronto, the Detroit Tigers, the Atlanta Braves, the St.Louis Cardinals, the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Angels will win their divisions. The four

wild card teams will include the Toronto Blue Jays, the Chicago White Sox, the Philadelphia Phillies and the Cincinnati Reds.

In a battle for Los Angeles, the Dodgers and Angels will meet in the 2013 World Series. The fall classic should see high-powered offense followed by pitching duels. This could be one of the most exciting world series matchups in recent years with the Angels winning in 6 games.


Needless to say, once Sunday is upon us, we are in for a slug-fest type of season.

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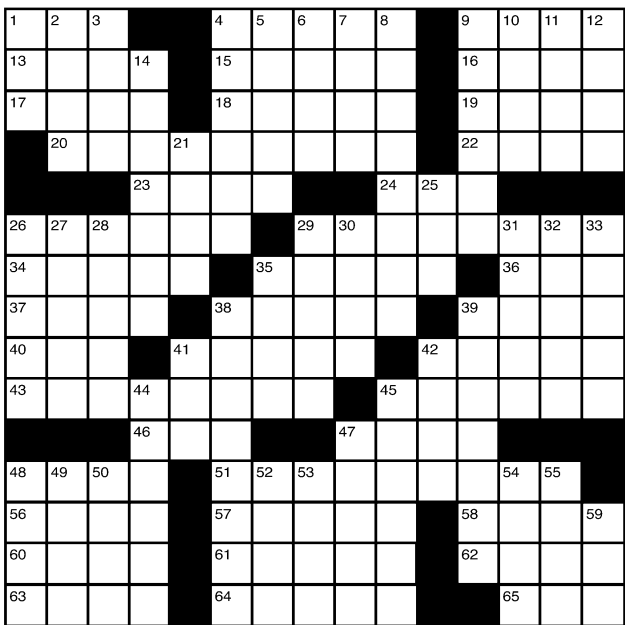
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THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Glide down the slopes
4 iPhone maker
9 Baseball scores
13 Brontë's "Jane"
15 Tasty tidbit
16 Perched on
17 "Woe is me!"
18 One of the five senses
19 Main part of a cathedral
20 Wizard
22 Unfreeze
23 Yodel
24 Scot's denial
26 Once again
29 Decreased
34 Talons
35 Like a chimney sweep's attire
36 Botch things up
37 Keep ___ on; watch closely
38 Complaining childishly
39 Cause of woe
40 Sphere; globe
41 Haggard
42 Foundation
43 Wearing the crown
45 Chopped meat concoctions
46 Shack
47 Aquarium
48 Shabby bar
51 Bank along the water's edge
56 Be an accomplice
57 Water retention problem
58 Latest scoop
60 Encounter
61 Swats
62 Nerd
63 1967 Montreal event
64 Monica of tennis
65 Lacking rainfall



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

03/27/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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03/27/13

DOWN

- 1 Caribbean ___
38 Cafe server

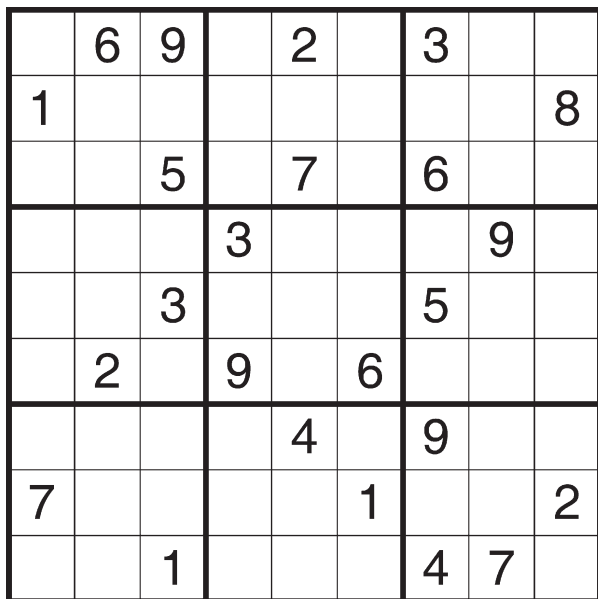
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Tuesday's Answers:

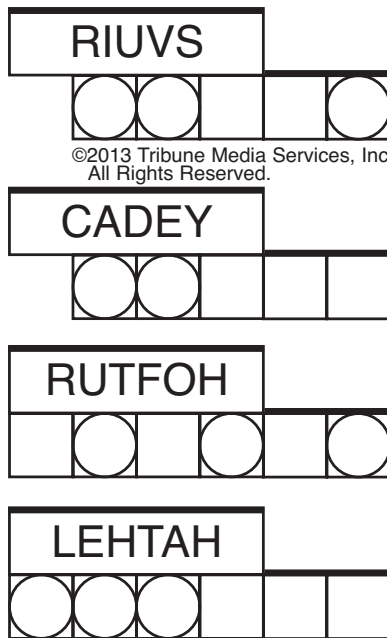
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 |

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contain every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

M I X E D U P B Y :

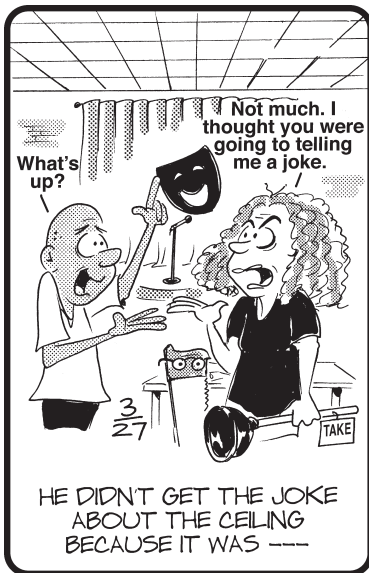


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Answer:

Tuesday's
Answers:

FLANK ABATE FACADE TURNIP
Leonard Nimoy's career really took off as a result of him being — "ALIEN-ATED"



HE DIDN'T GET THE JOKE ABOUT THE CEILING BECAUSE IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

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Aries — Today is an 8 — Some things are still out of reach. Focus on completing as much of the mundane work as possible now so that you can concentrate on more difficult tasks later. Use elbow grease.

Taurus — Today is a 7 — Stick with trusted routines, and do what you know works. Handle the basics. Postpone romance for now, and focus on productivity. Don't go out shopping either.

Gemini — Today is a 7 — An obstacle may get in the way. Use your creative powers to turn a detour into a new opportunity. You're being tested on your patience, anyway. It's not about the score.

Cancer — Today is a 6 — A female introduces new ideas. Peaceful interludes rejuvenate. Being gentle increases your self-esteem, and more gets accomplished through flexibility than through pressure.

Leo — Today is a 7 — Don't be afraid to ask for help, even if you feel like you don't need anybody. There's plenty to learn and improve upon, and it's better together. It's more fun, and you're done earlier.

Virgo — Today is a 7 — Figure out a solution to a conflict of interests. Do it carefully so you won't have to do it over. New opportunities come from your willingness to contribute and help others. It's also satisfying.

Libra — Today is an 8 — New breakdowns could arise from previous ones. Continue with your productivity streak, and do what there is to do. Address root causes.

Scorpio — Today is a 7 — Perceive the underlying harmony. You'll discover something that you didn't notice before regarding your time management this week. Being self-sufficient helps.

Sagittarius — Today is a 6 — Take care of your relationships, and don't lose your temper. You don't want to burn any bridges that you may want to cross later. Meditation helps, as does comedy.

Capricorn — Today is a 7 — Avoid a serious argument; it's not worth it right now. You have other things to worry about. Focus on your personal progress, especially around career. Don't stir up jealousies.

Aquarius — Today is a 7 — Answer the call of the wild; you're ready for anything. Work out the glitches in a relationship. Listen to all points of view. Self-esteem increases as you iron out the wrinkles.

Pisces — Today is a 6 — Avoid impetuous actions. The budget is tight and will require some creative thinking. Step back to recall what worked before, and put that information to good use.

Dancers dazzle Saluki Shakers

DEMARIO PHIPPS-SMITH
Daily Egyptian

Young dancers from throughout the region competed in Davies Gymnasium on Sunday with routines that incorporated feathers, jump suits, tutus, changing booths and even a park bench.

The Saluki Shakers' 2013 Dance Competition featured girls aged 3-16 who danced for supremacy in categories such as jazz and lyrical dance. The participants were placed into divisions based on age and genre. The competition also featured divisions between groups of doubles and trios.

Cailyn Fowlkes of the Sloans dancing program won the overall solo 10-and-younger category, and Addy Snow of Snow Power won the overall solo 11-and-older competition. The overall group awards went to ensembles Safe and Sound, Sloans, Pound the Alarm and The Upbeat. Awards were also given for each individual dance genre.

April Schafer, of Benton, said she was proud to see her 6-year-old daughter, Lainey, succeed among a pool of talented dancers.

"Lainey won first in solo hip-hop. she did very well today," Schafer said. "Her teacher, Brittany, must be doing a good job with her because of how well she danced today."

Please see DANCE | 5



NICOLE HESTER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Mikah Vick, a junior from Benton High School, marks her routine before her duet performance at the Saluki Shakers' 2013 competition, while dancers from Upbeat Studio watch the performance. Vick has been dancing for six years. She said she likes teaching more than dancing. "I like to see other people learn from me and improve," Vick said.

Former head coach wants university's money

TERRANCE PEACOCK
Daily Egyptian

After being fired once the 2011-12 season ended, former SIU men's basketball coach Chris Lowery seeks millions from the university, citing breach of contract and defamation.

Lowery, the Associate Head Coach

at Kansas State, served as the Salukis' head coach from 2004 to 2012 and compiled a 145-116 record in eight seasons.

Lowery, who was also a former Saluki basketball player in the early '90s, led the Salukis to the NCAA Tournament in his first three seasons.

However, his record wasn't as

impressive following his third coaching season as the Salukis compiled a 67-90 record and failed to make the NCAA Tournament in his last five seasons.

The former head coach signed a seven-year \$5.25 million contract extension following the 2006-07 season at SIU, the richest contract in school history. The contract included

a base salary of \$750,000 per year, plus annual university or cost of living increases.

Despite signing the lucrative contract, Lowery was let go after the 2011-12 season with two years left on his deal after the Salukis finished 8-23, a school record for season losses.

It was SIU's fourth-straight losing season.

In a transcript retained from Saluki Athletics, Athletic Director Mario Moccia said despite Lowery's firing that Lowery would always be a Saluki.

"I want to personally thank Chris for his service to our University as a player and coach for 14 years," Moccia said. "He is a Saluki to his core."

Please see LOWERY | 5

Championships are bought in the offseason



With spring training almost in the books, the Major League Baseball season is right around the corner and teams are preparing for a push toward October.

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim were in many offseason headlines. The Angels acquired only four players, but one of the signed free agents was 31-year-old left fielder Josh Hamilton. Hamilton signed with the Angels for a five-year contract worth \$123 million.

This followed up the Angels' 2011

offseason when they signed Albert Pujols, a 33-year-old first baseman for a 10-year, \$250 million contract.

Although the Angels have an assortment of stars, outfielder Mike Trout holds the highest stock right now. Last year, he hit 30 home runs, brought in 83 RBIs, held a .326 batting average and won the American League Rookie of the Year.

University students are excited to see if the Angels meet expectations.

"I'm most looking forward to seeing the Angels and if they live up to the hype of trying to be the new Yankees," said Logan Causey, a senior from Decatur studying economics. "There is no reason they shouldn't lead in offense with all the players they have."

Although the Angels have quite the payroll, Stephanie Feeman, a senior from

“Money can buy you talent, but it can't buy you sportsmanship or teamwork

— Stephanie Feeman
Senior, Elementary Education

Belleville studying elementary education, said she doesn't believe the team has what it takes to reach the championship.

"Money can buy you talent, but it can't buy you sportsmanship or teamwork," she said. "I think the Angels won't go far this year because they lack the teamwork that money can't buy."

The team with the most significant offseason moves was the Toronto Blue Jays. Toronto hasn't seen the playoffs since it won the World Series in 1993, but the Blue Jays appear to be attempting

a playoff run by the looks of their free agent pick-ups. The Blue Jays attained 10-year veteran R.A. Dickey in a trade from the New York Mets for catching prospect Travis d'Arnaud and pitching prospect Noah Syndergaard.

Dickey, who is known for his knuckle ball, struck out 230 batters, posted a 2.36 ERA and won 20 games en route to a 2012 National League Cy Young Award.

He could be the type of pitcher to supplement a Toronto team that went 73-89 in 2012.

Outfielder Melky Cabrera also looks to make an impact with the Jays this season. Cabrera finished the 2012 season with 11 home runs, 60 RBI, a .336 batting average and was named the 2012 all star game MVP. However, in August of last season, Cabrera was suspended for 50 games after he tested positive for a banned substance.

Michael Webb, a junior from Decatur studying agribusiness economics, said when a player is accused of using steroids, it's hard to look past.

"I lost respect for players like Cabrera and Braun because I feel like they violated the rules of America's sacred pastime," he said. "At the same time, I feel like everyone deserves a second chance, and that's what Cabrera will get with his new team."

Please see BASEBALL | 5